The intimation of this effect is being given on the imprint page of each texbook. A message to this effect has also been publicised through various media.

Child marriages

2689. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Census 2001 has revealed that 6.4 million Indian under the age of 18 are already married and that taking into account the legal marriageable age (18 for females and 21 for males) 11.8 million (4.9 million females and 6.9 million males) married underage;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken a serious note about the child marriages in various parts of the country;

(c) if so, the measures taken or proposed to be taken to stop child marriages;

(d) whether it is proposed to take stringent action against the officials who fail to prevent child marriages; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government has taken serveral steps to eliminate child marriages from the country. Such as,

* State Governments have been asked for strict implementation of Child Marriage (Restraint) Act, 1929
* State Government have been asked to take necessary measures to prevent child marriages in their States
* The proposal for amendment to the Child Marriage (Restraint) Act, 1929 is presently under consideration of the Government which would help in better implementation of the Act.
* NHRC is also taking steps at its level to address the issue.
* A strong media campaign is being launched by the Department of

Women and Child Development especially to target prevention of child marriages in the forthcoming festival season of Akshaya Teej.

* During 2002-03 and 2003-04, the National Commission for Women launched Bal Vivah Virodh Abhiyan and in 2004-05 the Commission has asked the State Governments to take steps to curb child marriages. The Commission is also collaborating with State Governments and State Women Commissions for launching the Bal Vivah Virodh Abhiyan and putting efforts to generate awareness against this social evil.

(d) and (e) The proposal for amendment to the Child Marriage (Restraint) Act 1929, among others, include strict punishment for offenders.

New assessment system for Maths

2690. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has decided to introduce a new assessment system for maths;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the CBSE is considering to introduce a comprehensive grading system for Board examinations; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), the internal assessment scheme in Maths will be introduced at class IX from the academic year 2005-06 and at Class X from the academic year 2006-07. The first batch of Class X students will appear in examinations under this new scheme, in March 2007. The salient features of the scheme are as follows:-

(1) The CBSE has made the concept of mathematics laboratory compulsory in all its schools to facilitate effective learning of Mathematics.

(2) The initiative aims to remove the fear for the study of Mathematics